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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 1-47. Please add new claims 48-109.

Listing of Claims:

1-47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) A vector system for transfection and recombinant polypeptide expression in a mammalian host cell comprising:

a first cistron encoding a transactivator protein under control of a first promoter;

and

a second cistron encoding an apoptosis-protective protein under control of the first promoter or optionally under control of a second promoter;

wherein the first and the second cistrons are contained in one or more vectors.

49. (New) The vector system of Claim 48, further comprising a third cistron encoding at least one desired polypeptide under control of a third promoter, wherein said third promoter is responsive to the transactivator protein and wherein the first, the second, and the third cistrons are contained in one or more vectors.

50. (New) The vector system of Claim 49, further comprising one or more additional cistrons each encoding a desired polypeptide under control of a promoter responsive to the transactivator protein.

51. (New) The vector system of Claim 49, wherein said polypeptide is a single chain antibody or a heavy or light chain of an antibody or antibody fragment.

52. (New) The vector system of Claim 48, wherein the first and second cistrons are on one vector and the first cistron lies downstream of the second cistron.

53. (New) The vector system of Claim 49, wherein the third cistron is associated with a ubiquitous chromatin opening element (UCOE), an insulator, or a barrier element.

54. (New) The vector system of Claim 53, wherein the ubiquitous chromatin opening element (UCOE) comprises an extended methylation-free CpG-island.

55. (New) The vector system of Claim 53, wherein the ubiquitous chromatin opening element (UCOE) comprises an hnRNP A2 promoter.

56. (New) A method of expressing a desired recombinant polypeptide in a mammalian host cell comprising introducing to the mammalian host cell:

a first cistron encoding a transactivator protein under control of a first promoter;

a second cistron encoding an apoptosis-protective protein under control of the first promoter or optionally under control of a second promoter; and

a third cistron encoding the desired polypeptide under control of a third promoter;

wherein said third promoter is responsive to the transactivator protein.

57. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein the third cistron is associated with a ubiquitous chromatin opening element (UCOE), an insulator, or a barrier element.

58. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of a CHO cell, a mouse myeloma cell, a mouse hybridoma cell, a rat myeloma cell, and a rat hybridoma cell.

59. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein the transactivator and the apoptotic protective protein are homologous to the endogenous transactivator and apoptotic protective proteins of the host cell.

60. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein said polypeptide is a single-chain antibody or a heavy or light chain of an antibody or antibody fragment.

61. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein said polypeptide is a part of a library of polypeptides.

62. (New) A mammalian host cell for recombinant polypeptide expression comprising a first cistron encoding a transactivator protein, a second cistron encoding an apoptosis-protective protein that prevents cell-killing due to the expression of the transactivator protein, and a third cistron encoding one or more desired polypeptides under control of a promoter responsive to the transactivator protein.

63. (New) The host cell of Claim 62, wherein said cell is a CHO cell or a YB2/0 cell.

64. (New) A method for producing a recombinant protein comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 62 in a suitable medium such that the one or more desired proteins are secreted into the medium.

65. (New) A nucleic acid comprising:

a cistron encoding a desired antibody polypeptide under control of a promoter;

a ubiquitous chromatin opening element (UCOE) operably linked to the cistron;

and

a retroviral vector, wherein the cistron, the promoter, and the UCOE are contained in the retroviral vector.

66. (New) The nucleic acid of Claim 65, wherein the promoter is responsive to a transactivator protein capable of enhancing expression of the polypeptide.

67. (New) The nucleic acid of Claim 65, wherein the antibody polypeptide is a single chain antibody or a heavy or light chain of an antibody or antibody fragment.

68. (New) The nucleic acid of Claim 65, further comprising a second cistron encoding a second desired antibody polypeptide under control of the promoter, wherein the second cistron is contained in the retroviral vector, and the first and second cistrons are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES).

69. (New) The nucleic acid of Claim 68, wherein the first cistron encodes an antibody light chain or an antibody light chain fragment, and the second cistron encodes an antibody heavy chain or an antibody heavy chain fragment.

70. (New) The nucleic acid of Claim 65, wherein the UCOE comprises an extended methylation-free CpG-island.

71. (New) The nucleic acid of Claim 65, wherein the UCOE comprises an hnRNP A2 promoter.

72. (New) A vector system comprising a plurality of the nucleic acids of Claim 65, wherein a first nucleic acid comprises a first cistron encoding an antibody light chain or an antibody light

chain fragment, and a second nucleic acid comprises a second cistron encoding an antibody heavy chain or an antibody heavy chain fragment.

73. (New) A vector system comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 65, further comprising a cistron encoding a transactivator protein under control of a second promoter, said transactivator protein capable of enhancing expression of the antibody polypeptide.

74. (New) The vector system of Claim 73, further comprising a cistron encoding an apoptosis-protective protein under control of the second promoter or optionally under control of a third promoter.

75. (New) The vector system of Claim 50, wherein two of the cistrons encoding the desired polypeptides are on one vector and are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES).

76. (New) The vector system of Claim 75, further comprising a ubiquitous opening element (UCOE) operably linked to the two cistrons encoding the polypeptides.

77. (New) The vector system of Claim 76, wherein the cistrons encoding the polypeptides are contained in a retroviral vector.

78. (New) A vector system comprising:

 a first cistron encoding a first desired antibody polypeptide under control of a first promoter;

 a second cistron encoding a second desired antibody polypeptide under control of the first promoter;

 a third cistron encoding a transactivator protein under control of a second promoter;

wherein the first and second cistrons are on a retroviral vector and are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), and the third cistron is on the same retroviral vector or optionally on a different vector.

79. (New) The vector system of Claim 78, further comprising a cistron encoding an apoptosis-protective protein under control of the second promoter or optionally under control of a third promoter.

80. (New) A method of expressing a desired antibody in a mammalian host cell comprising the steps of:

growing the mammalian host cell containing a nucleic acid, said nucleic acid comprising:

a cistron encoding an antibody polypeptide under control of a promoter;

a ubiquitous chromatin opening element (UCOE) operably linked to the cistron;

and

a retroviral vector, wherein the cistron, the promoter, and the UCOE are contained in the retroviral vector; and

expressing the antibody polypeptide in the mammalian host cell.

81. (New) The method of Claim 80, wherein the antibody polypeptide is a single chain antibody or a heavy or light chain of an antibody or antibody fragment.

82. (New) The method of Claim 80, further comprising introducing to the host cell one or more of the nucleic acids.

83. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein a first nucleic acid comprises a cistron encoding an antibody light chain or an antibody light chain fragment, a second nucleic acid comprises a cistron encoding an antibody heavy chain or an antibody heavy chain fragment.

84. (New) The method of Claim 80, wherein the nucleic acid or nucleic acids are introduced to the host cell by infection.

85. (New) The method of Claim 80, wherein the nucleic acid further comprises a second cistron encoding a second desired antibody polypeptide wherein the second cistron is contained in the retroviral vector, and the first and second cistrons are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES).

86. (New) The method of Claim 85, wherein the first cistron encodes an antibody light chain or an antibody light chain fragment, the second cistron encodes an antibody heavy chain or an antibody heavy chain fragment.

87. (New) The method of Claim 80, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of a CHO cell, a mouse myeloma cell, a mouse hybridoma cell, a rat myeloma cell, and a rat hybridoma cell.

88. (New) The method of Claim 56, further comprising introducing to the mammalian host cell one or more additional cistrons each encoding a desired polypeptide under control of a promoter responsive to the transactivator protein.

89. (New) The method of Claim 88, wherein two of the cistrons encoding the desired polypeptides are on one vector and are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES).

90. (New) The method of Claim 89, further comprising introducing to the mammalian host cell a ubiquitous opening element (UCOE) operably linked to the two cistrons encoding the polypeptides.

91. (New) The method of Claim 90, wherein the two cistrons encoding the polypeptides are contained in a retroviral vector.

92. (New) A method of expressing a desired antibody in a mammalian host cell comprising the steps of:

growing the mammalian host cell containing a nucleic acid, said nucleic acid comprising:

a first cistron encoding a first desired antibody polypeptide under control of a first promoter;

a second cistron encoding a second desired antibody polypeptide under control of the first promoter;

a third cistron encoding a transactivator protein under control of a second promoter;

wherein the first and second cistrons are on a retroviral vector and are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), and the third cistron is on the same retroviral vector or optionally on a different vector; and

expressing the antibody polypeptide in the mammalian host cell.

93. (New) The method of Claim 92, wherein said nucleic acid further comprises a cistron encoding an apoptosis-protective protein under control of the second promoter or optionally under control of a third promoter.

94. (New) A mammalian host cell comprising a nucleic acid, said nucleic acid comprising:

a cistron encoding an antibody polypeptide under control of a promoter;
a ubiquitous chromatin opening element (UCOE) operably linked to the cistron;
and
a retroviral vector, wherein the cistron, the promoter, and the UCOE are contained
in the retroviral vector.

95. (New) The host cell of Claim 94, wherein the antibody polypeptide is a single chain antibody or a heavy or light chain of an antibody or antibody fragment.
96. (New) The host cell of Claim 94, further comprising one or more of the nucleic acids.
97. (New) The host cell of Claim 94, wherein the nucleic acid further comprises a second cistron encoding a second desired antibody polypeptide wherein the second cistron is contained in the retroviral vector, and the first and second cistrons are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES).
98. (New) The host cell of Claim 97, wherein the first cistron encodes an antibody light chain or an antibody light chain fragment, and the second cistron encodes an antibody heavy chain or an antibody heavy chain fragment.
99. (New) The host cell of Claim 94, wherein the host cell further comprises a cistron encoding a transactivator protein under control of a promoter.
100. (New) The host cell of Claim 99, wherein the host cell further comprises a cistron encoding an apoptosis-protective protein under control of a promoter.

101. (New) The host cell of Claim 94, wherein the UCOE comprises an extended methylation-free CpG-island.

102. (New) The host cell of Claim 94 wherein the host cell is a CHO cell or a YB2/0 cell.

103. (New) The host cell of Claim 62, further comprising one or more additional cistrons each encoding a desired polypeptide under control of a promoter responsive to the transactivator protein.

104. (New) The host cell of Claim 103, wherein two of the cistrons encoding the desired polypeptides are on one vector and are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES).

105. (New) The host cell of Claim 104, further comprising introducing to the mammalian host cell a ubiquitous opening element (UCOE) operably linked to the two cistrons encoding the polypeptides.

106. (New) The host cell of Claim 105, wherein the two cistrons encoding the polypeptides are contained in a retroviral vector.

107. (New) A mammalian host cell comprising a nucleic acid, said nucleic acid comprising:
a first cistron encoding a first desired antibody polypeptide under control of a first promoter;

a second cistron encoding a second desired antibody polypeptide under control of the first promoter;

a third cistron encoding a transactivator protein under control of a second promoter;

wherein the first and second cistrons are on a retroviral vector and are separated by an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), and the third cistron is on the same retroviral vector or optionally on a different vector.

108. (New) The mammalian host cell of Claim 107, wherein said nucleic acid further comprises a cistron encoding a transactivator-protective protein under control of the second promoter or optionally under control of a third promoter.
109. (New) A method of producing an antibody polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 94 in a suitable medium such that one or more desired antibody polypeptides are secreted into the medium.